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Statement by Attorney General Beau Biden on Commutation of Sentence of Robert Gattis

Attorney General Beau Biden issued the following statement today following Governor Jack Markell's decision to commute the death sentence of Robert Gattis to life in prison without the possibility of parole:

"Over the past twenty years state and federal courts on sixteen separate occasions unanimously determined there was no legal, factual, or procedural error in this case. Each reviewing court has upheld Robert Gattis' conviction and death sentence. We continue to have the same concerns we have always expressed for victims of domestic violence. Shirley Slay was a wholly innocent victim who, until her brutal and premeditated murder, did everything possible to protect herself from the years of abuse by Robert Gattis. We respect that this was a weighty decision for the Governor after much review and deliberation."

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